

From Älvsborg bridge to Göta river bridge, and back

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Abstract

This story is about a constant transformation in a city and a cultural heritage with some identity issues. From eighteenth century East India Company to the twenty first century ship racing, it is a story of a city going through evolution. The, today existing, bridges have been monitoring only a fraction of that story, yet maybe it's most intense period – the twentieth century.

The two bridges that were monitoring the latest century of development are called Älvsborgsbron and Götaälvbron. But these two will tell the story of the whole development, because without that past story they would not have been built. As we all do not exist without a past story that had been creating the prerequisites of our existence and even our DNA. A dna of a city lies in all its parts.

Gothenburg has been a strong industrial city and a centre of the industrialisation in western Sweden, including the maritime development. Now, the industry being gone, there is another new denomination: the post-industrial city. Adding to previous, the city has many identities. It has been *pre-industrial* and *mega-industrial* and *trade* and tourism and “*events*” city.

Shipyards, car industry, harbours and trade are the common denominators of the last century Gothenburg. The bridges of Älvsborg and Göta can tell that story.

Keywords: icon, monument, popular, significant, accumulated interest, industrial heritage, Göteborg, Älvsborg bridge, Göta river bridge.